

**Testimony of Janice Chamberlain, Director of Human Resources, Horizons Programs,  
Inc., South Windham, CT.**

**To The**

**Appropriations Committee**

**H.B. No. 6350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE  
30, 2015 AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE**

**February 15, 2013**

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Janice Chamberlain. I am the Director of Human Resources at Horizons Programs, Inc., a not for profit agency located in the "quiet corner" of Connecticut. Our agency has been in operation for over 33 years and provides individualized supports and services for people with special needs where they live, learn work and play. Our agency is also a member of the CT Association of Nonprofits.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak this evening in reference to **House Bill 6350, An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2015 and other provisions relating to revenue.**

I appreciate the hard decisions the Appropriations Committee and Legislature will have to make in the next several months as the state continues to face large budget deficits and dwindling revenues this year and in many to come. Thank you in advance for the time you will invest to get this task accomplished.

Nonprofit community-based providers are essential partners with the state. The supports and services provided by these organizations are vital to the wellbeing of Connecticut' citizens and essential to building sustainable, vibrant communities. Protecting and supporting the funding of these organizations is a solid investment in Connecticut's vitality.

My organization has made a very positive economic impact in eastern Connecticut in the following ways:

**(See Fact Sheet that follows on the attached pages submitted as part of testimony).**

"Protect the safety net" so companies like Horizons can stay in business and continue to have a positive programmatic and economic impact in Connecticut. Thank you



## **HORIZONS**

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## **Fact Sheet**

### **Program & Economic impact**

- **We are a major employer in eastern CT.** We have hired many local high school and college students for both summer and year round employment. We have actually hired over **62** students from Windham, Willimantic over the past 3 seasons. When you factor in surrounding towns such as Lebanon, Franklin, Columbia, Mansfield, Colchester, there are an additional **42** students hired from those towns over the past 3 seasons. **We hire 155 summer workers and have 168 permanent staff.**
- We have been the site of many community service projects for local high school and college students from local churches, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts. Not to mention fraternities and sororities from Eastern and UConn.
- We are a major employer of Eastern and UConn students and have hired over 37 seasonal college staff in just the past 3 years, 4 becoming year-round staff.
- We contract with 13 area school systems to help meet their student's needs.
- We support 23 people in supported living which also means we help them rent several apartments, condos and houses.
- The camp programs, service over 1500 people annually between our weekend respite program and summer residential camp. Many times we are the **ONLY** respite a family receives. Our 105 supported employment participants are employed by businesses including:

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\*All Pets Club, Douglas Manor, Eastern Athletics-Student Center- Hurley Hall, Kerri Studio & Gallery, Little Lights, Ruby Tuesday's, Wal Mart, Guilford Smith Library, St. Joseph Living Center, Willi Auto & Lube Center, Windham Recreation Department locally and 30 other businesses in surrounding towns.

1. Big Y Tolland
2. Center for Medicare Advocacy – Mansfield
3. Coast Guard Academy
4. CT Children's Medical Center
5. First Church of Christ Mansfield
6. **Groton Sub Base**
7. **Eastern Ct State University**
8. **Manchester Hospital**
9. Millworks Willington
10. **Mystic Aquarium**
11. Papa Gino's Mansfield, Vernon
12. **Pride's Corner Farm**
13. **Star Hill**
14. Stop & Shop Rockville
15. **UConn** Burton Football Center
16. UConn Central Stores Warehouse
17. UConn Child Development Labs
18. UConn Dining Services – Northwest
19. UConn Dining Services – Putnam
20. UConn Dining Services – South
21. UConn Dining Services – Towers
22. UConn NEAG, School of Ed
23. Union Street Church
24. Vernon Manor
25. Annie Vinton School
26. Lebanon Elementary School
27. Lebanon School Library
28. Pre-School of the Arts
29. TJ Maxx Mansfield
30. TJ Maxx Vernon

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- We ourselves opened a business on Main St in Willimantic, Kerri Studio & Gallery, to contribute directly to the revitalization of Main St. and invest in our community.

Our staff volunteer , live in town(66) rent apartments and homes, buy homes and **spend over 6 Million dollars annually** in CT. at places like Stop & Shop, gas stations, car dealerships, stores, medical services ,restaurants malls and more.

We do business with Liberty Bank Webster Bank, and the Savings Institute. We buy cars from Manchester Honda and Columbia Ford, We buy our Health insurance from CIGNA and support over 50 other CT based businesses.

Five of our staff have been are our currently members of the local volunteer fire departments.

3 staff volunteer on the Guilford Smith or Windham Free library boards .

Other staff currently volunteer locally at:

Region 19 Board of Education

New London Town council

North Windham Elementary School PTO

Windham Center PTO

Little Leagues and sports teams in Windham, Columbia, Mansfield

Willimantic Food COOP

The No Freeze Shelter,

Covenant Soup Kitchen,

Windham Harm Reduction coalition,

Windham Heights Housing Complex, Tutoring

Willimantic Whitewater Project

Windham Special Olympics

Big Pond Preservation Association

Windham PZC

And just about every church and the synagogue in town.

